

# ***Tips for Teens***

## ***The Truth About Hallucinogens***

Hallucinogenic drugs are substances that distort the perception of objective reality. The most well-known hallucinogens include phencyclidine, otherwise known as PCP, angel dust, or loveboat; lysergic acid diethylamide, commonly known as LSD or acid; mescaline and peyote; and psilocybin, or "magic" mushrooms.

Under the influence of hallucinogens, the senses of direction, distance, and time become disoriented. These drugs can produce unpredictable, erratic and violent behavior in users that sometimes leads to serious injuries and death.

Drownings, burns, falls, and automobile crashes have also been reported. In 1993, hallucinogens were associated with almost 10,000 hospital emergency room visits and approximately 200 deaths.

***People under the influence of hallucinogens frequently cause themselves physical harm or exhibit violent behavior toward others.***

### ***What Are the Physical Risks Associated With Using Hallucinogens?***

- \* increased heart rate and blood pressure
- \* sleeplessness and tremors
- \* lack of muscular coordination
- \* sparse, mangled, and incoherent speech
- \* decreased awareness of touch and pain that can result in self-inflicted injuries
- \* convulsions
- \* coma
- \* heart and lung failure

### ***What Are the Psychological Risks Associated With Using Hallucinogens?***

- \* a sense of distance and estrangement
- \* depression, anxiety, and paranoia
- \* violent behavior
- \* confusion, suspicion, and loss of control
- \* flashbacks

- \* behavior similar to schizophrenic psychosis catatonic syndrome whereby the user becomes mute, lethargic, disoriented, and makes meaningless repetitive movements

***Everyone reacts differently to hallucinogens -- there's no way to predict if you can avoid a "bad trip".***

The effect of hallucinogens can last for 12 hours -- do you really want to lose control of your body and mind for that long?

Don't get doped into thinking that taking hallucinogens will lead you to self-discovery.

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## **Questions and Answers**

*Is there any way to predict how I will react to taking LSD?*

The effects of LSD are unpredictable. They depend on the amount taken, the user's personality, mood and expectations, and the surroundings in which the drug is used. Usually, the user feels the first effects of the drug 30-90 minutes after taking it. These effects include dilated pupils, higher body temperature, increased heart rate and blood pressure, sweating, loss of appetite, sleeplessness, dry mouth, and tremors.

Sensations and feelings change much more dramatically than the physical signs. The user may feel several different emotions at once or swing rapidly from one emotion to another. Depending on the dose, the drug can produce

delusions and visual hallucinations, which can be frightening and cause panic.

Users refer to their experience with these acute adverse reactions as a "bad trip," and the effects typically last for about twelve hours. Terrifying thoughts and feelings, fear of insanity and death, injuries, and fatal accidents have occurred during LSD intoxication.

Anyone can experience a bad trip and there is no way to predict what your own experience will be.

***Using hallucinogens can affect learning and memory.***

*I've heard that hallucinogens aren't even addictive. So what is the big deal?*

LSD does not produce compulsive drug-seeking behavior like cocaine, alcohol, or nicotine, but LSD produces tolerance, so users who take the drug repeatedly must take progressively higher and higher doses in order to achieve the same state of intoxication.

This is an extremely dangerous practice, given the unpredictability of the drug, and can result in increased risk of convulsions, coma, heart and lung failure, and even death.

## ***Resources***

American Council for Drug Education  
167 West 74th Street  
New York, NY 10023  
212-758-8060  
1-800-488-DRUG

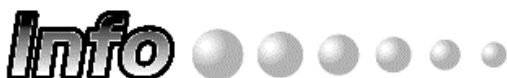
Families Anonymous, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3475  
Culver City, CA 90231-3475  
310-313-5800  
1-800-736-9805

Nar-Anon Family Groups  
P.O. Box 2562  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274  
310-547-5800

Narcotics Anonymous  
P.O. Box 9999  
Van Nuys, CA 91409  
818-773-9999

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug  
Dependence  
12 West 21st Street, 7th Floor  
New York, NY 10010  
1-800-622-2255

National Families in Action  
2296 Henderson Mill Road, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30345  
404-934-6364



To learn more about hallucinogens or obtain referrals to programs in your community, contact:

**Resource Center  
State of California  
Department of Alcohol and Drug  
Programs  
1700 K Street, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**(800) 879-2772 (California Only)**

**(916) 327-3728**

**FAX: (916) 323-1270**

**TTY: (916) 445-1942**

**Internet:**

**<http://www.adp.state.ca.us>**

**E-Mail:**

**ResourceCenter@adp.state.ca.us**

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